The Evening World.

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THE AMERICAN LEGION HEAD.

AMERICANS everywhere will be shocked at the news that the gallant National Commander of the American Legion has been killed in an automobile accident.

The "Fighting Colonel of the Fighting First" made a distinguished record in the war and brought glory upon the Ohio National Guard. In early life a sailor, trained at the Massachusetts Nautical Training Academy and six years at sea, later a public-spirited business man of Cincinnati, then a soldier in command at Camp Sherman, afterward leading the 147th Infantry overseas, Col. Galbraith was a fine type of efficient, all-round American—strong asset of the Nation in peace or war.

As Commander of the American Legion he was the head of an organization whose potential influence in civic affairs can be and ought to be great. Col. Galbraith showed a high sense of his responsibility, not only toward ex-service men whose welfare he worked to promote, but also toward the larger public of which the American Legion should never be anything but an honored, useful, co-operating part.

His untimely death is a loss to the Legion and to the country.

Discussing disarmament the Tribune says: "The President must take the lead; the conduct of foreign relations is in his hands."

What, may we ask, has become of the sometime orthodox Republican addendum to all discussions of international affairs? Has "by and with the advice and consent of the Senate" become obsolete since Woodrow Wilson passed from power?

THE MATRIMONIAL SLUMP.

REPORTS on the number of June weddings in a dozen cities show a decided decline for the early days of the month as compared with the corresponding period last year.

One explanation is that June 1920 was an unusually active month in matrimonial affairs and that we are getting back to normalcy.

War years caused a slump in the number of weddings, and as the veterans returned to civil life they needed some time to make a new start. By June the crop of bridegrooms was ripe for the harvest.

But the figures for this year cast some doubt on the part the H. C. of L. plays in stimulating or retarding marriages.

This year the cost of living has declined materially from last year's peak, but the decline is not reflected in the license record.

On the other hand, wages have declined and a great increase in unemployment exists. Probably this second factor has more immediate effect on the founding of families than the cost of living.

When men are employed, lovers are ready to test the theory that two can live cheaper than one. But when a man is out of a job he isn't making a living for one, and the theory is sidetracked until jobs are more plentiful.

HUMANITY VS. U. S. MAILS.

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER HITCHCOCK was 100 per cent. right in refusing to entertain a complaint against Robert C. Mayer, who "obstructed the mails" when he caused the arrest of a mail collector driving a lame horse.

Uncle Sam and his servants ought not to be free from the dictates of common decency toward the horse. No jury would ever bring in a verdict against a man whose only crime was a feeling of pity for a dumb animal.

HOME TO ROOST.

CIRCUMSTANCES have altered decidedly since the National Committeemen of the G. O. P. met a year ago. And it is a question whether the committeemen are much happier for the change.

Then they met with the prospect of victory ahead. They achieved the victory. Now it is a question whether they know what to do with it.

Unfulfilled campaign pledges are bothersome things. Political prevarications have an inconvenient way of coming home to roost, just like the common garden varieties of lie.

A year ago it was all plain sailing. Promise everything to everybody—and no matter if pledges conflicted. Carry on party traditions—even if conditions have changed to make the traditions undesirable. Pledge the unattainable.

Deception and trickery were the foundation of Republican success. This was only less true in domestic issues than in foreign affairs.

The harmony glue manufactured from such ingredients does not stick well. No one knows this better than the committeemen who have their ears to the ground in all the forty-eight States.

The voters are beginning to ask for the unattainable. They want to know about tax reduction, economy, efficiency, disarmament, the League of Nations. They are discovering the fraud in the Emergency Tariff Bill. Southern whites and Southern negroes are each demanding that the party make good on the conflicting "black and tan" and "lily white" programmes promised a year ago.

A little more honesty last year would have made the present situation easier, although a do-nothing Congress is always a thorn in the side of the men who have to do the explaining.

In other years the selection of a National Chairman would be of absorbing interest to the professional leaders of the party. Just now that seems to be the least of their troubles.

EVEN GIBRALTAR.

"THERE is no Usury Law as to corporations." The above was a reply elicited by Lawyer Untermyer from a witness before the Lockwood Committee.

Mr. Untermyer was trying to find out why builders seeking loans from great financial corporations have been forced to pay 10 per cent. bonuses to brokers, to buy job lots of real estate they did not want and to submit to juggling transactions whereby they accepted Liberty bonds at par value but got only the market value of the bonds when the corporation wrote its check.

The witness quoted above seems to have covered it all in eight words: There is no Usury Law as to corporations.

Nor is there anything to compel big financial concerns to help the country out of a housing crisis or to refrain from making such a crisis worse by putting the screws on would-be borrowers through direct or indirect methods.

The wonder is, not that an acute housing shortage developed, but that anybody built at all.

The deep instinct of public service and responsibility in some of the huge and "highly respectable" corporations that draw immense sums of money directly from the public was further shown when Mr. Untermyer got around to the Prudential Insurance Company of New Jersey and put its President, Forrest F. Dryden, on the stand.

Mr. Dryden admitted that the Prudential out of its $700,000,000 funds had but $1,000,000 to put into bond and mortgage on real estate in New York City, as against the $100,000,000 the Metropolitan Life brought to the aid of the housing situation.

Yet at the close of the year 1919 from 22 to 28 per cent. of the total insurance written by the Prudential was in this State.

Mr. Dryden found it perfectly natural that a man who wanted to borrow of the Prudential to build in New York should discover that as a preliminary he needed to spend a couple of hundred thousand dollars to acquire real estate in Newark.

Finally Mr. Dryden was unable to recollect whether or not he had profited as a stockholder in banks where large amounts of Prudential funds were admittedly deposited.

Q. Do you still think, Mr. Dryden, that the head of a great institution of this kind that is charged with the terrific responsibility, with, I think you said, nearly $700,000,000 assets, and 20,000,000 policies divided among 15,000,000 policy-holders, that he ought to be interested in banks that get partial support from the Prudential Life? A. I see no impropriety in it.

Disclosure of the kind of conscience and policy that control the use of huge aggregations of money which in a sense still belong to the public that has piled them up is not the least of the Lockwood Committee's services.

The fire insurance companies are already cleaning house with might and main.

Other financial Gibraltars like this one which towers over New Jersey will do well to follow suit.

"The world is wondering whether Germany can pay the indemnity. And at Washington statesmen predict an annual budget, beginning next year, of seven thousand million dollars.

"That is more than four times the annual German indemnity payment. It is fourteen times what this Government used to spend in days called horribly extravagant."—Arthur Brisbane in the American.

And the American continues to advise large and expensive armies and navies for "defense" against Mexico and Japan.

TWICE OVERS.

"I HAVE read with amazement certain extracts from a speech purported to have been made by you."—Secretary Denby to Admiral Sims.

* * *

"THEY are Americans when they want money, but Sinn Feiners when on the platform."—Admiral Sims.

* * *

"KEEPING you late like this makes a speeder of you."—Babe Ruth.

* * *

"I UNDERSTOOD my brother was a candidcte for the Senate. So, because of my love and affection for him, I told Fred B. Smith I wanted to finance his campaign."—John S. Newberry, brother of Truman H. Newberry.

"I'm Through With You!"

By John Cassel

From Evening World Readers

What kind of a letter do you find most readable? Isn't it the one that gives you the worth of a thousand words in a couple of hundred? There is fine mental exercise and a lot of satisfaction in trying to say much in a few words. Take time to be brief.

The Popular Will.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

In your issue of June 2 appeared a letter maintaining that Prohibition, after all, was an expression of the will of the people. Why then did the Anti-Saloon League in so many of the important States fight strenuously to prevent a popular referendum on Prohibition prior to the ratification of the amendment? Why was the ratification of the amendment in several States in open defiance of the people? In particular I recall the instance of California, where shortly after the people of the State had voted against Prohibition the Legislature ratified the Prohibition Amendment. By what possible deduction can such legislation be construed as popular?

A friend has recounted to me an experience in Washington. One evening he found himself in an assemblage of five or six Congressmen, who at the residence of one were engaged in playing cards. Noting the avidity with which many highballs were consumed, my friend asked whether any of the members of Congress present had voted against submitting the Eighteenth Amendment to States for ratification. All had voted for submission. Pressed further for reasons, they one and all stated that the Anti-Saloon League lobby in Washington was the most powerful they had ever known and that Congress had been browbeaten into voting for submission. It was the unanimous opinion, however, that the Anti-Saloon League had been greatly overestimated, that the league did not represent the will of the majority of the people.

A curious mental aberration possesses Prohibitionists when they insist that the Eighteenth Amendment is an expression of popular will when they used their utmost endeavors to prevent the people from voting on the question. "E. B. v. G."

Questioning Motives.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Referring to Mr. Drake's booze parade, he states that most of the people who will parade do not drink. Then why this demonstration?

I dare say to restore to his friends who sell the stuff their liberty again. I want to state that I know of families who have been deprived of the bare necessities on account of the saloons, and it's only since Prohibition has gone into effect that they realize what liberty means.

I am sure that a man of Drake's calibre would not interest himself, nor round up his friends to help drunkards' wives and children. Too bad that he is unable to satisfy his cravings without mustering an army to help him. I know of many wives and children who are not blessing him. CONSTANT READER.

New York, June 3, 1921.

"A Glorious Feeling."

To the Editor of The Evening World:

I have read with great interest some of the letters appearing in your valued paper protesting against the Prohibition Parade to be held on July 4 as a protest to the Volstead act.

It sure gives one a glorious feeling to see that we still have a good many red-blooded Americans who are willing to defend their personal liberties by staging a huge parade in protest against the Volstead Prohibition Act, which as far as can be seen has not benefited this country one bit. Crimes are being committed just the same. Why? Because a great many people in their desire to get a drink of good old stuff are being poisoned by the drinks of to-day, which are so strong as to cause insanity. Of course, it results in crime. Since this law was passed it has caused a good deal of money to be spent in the enforcement of the same. This has to be added to the tax on our citizens, who are more than tired of paying high taxes. If we are ever to get down to a normal basis the only thing to do is to repeal the Volstead act and stop tantalizing the people with all these foolish and useless laws.

If the majority of the people in this great country of ours wanted Prohibition they would have long ere this gladly helped to enforce it, but as things stand now they do not want it. The people of this country are an easy-going and law-abiding people, but when a bunch of narrow minded hypocrites of the minority try to rule the majority, then is the time to put a stop to all foolishness.

The Prohibition Party when first started was considered a huge joke, but they put one over on us and had a good laugh; but now when they see we do not intend to stand for it and will fight to repeal this Prohibition act, they get peeved and start right in to try to prevent this parade to protest against Prohibition.

It would be a great thing to invite the Representatives from Washington to witness this parade so they will see what a foolish law it is and how the people detest it. Then if they do not do something, send men to Washington who have the interest of the people as a whole at heart, or petition the Legislatures of the States for a referendum and let the result of the vote be the decision for the people to stand by. WM. L. KOUR.

Wood Ridge, N. J., June 3.

"A Mass of Hypocrisy."

To the Editor of The Evening World:

In all the letters to you regarding Prohibition there seems to be a consensus of opinion that the Anti-Saloon League should receive all the credit (if any is due) for putting over the Volstead law.

The more the subject is investigated and in only scratching the surface the Anti-Saloon League appears merely as the camouflaged excuse for the politicians to "put it over" for the benefit of their own pockets and bank accounts.

Millions of dollars in graft have been paid—ultimately by the consumer (there's one born every minute—and I'm one of them), which are now reposing in thousands of safe-deposit boxes—tax exempt. This is common knowledge or should be.

Can one doubt it when one sees the class, character, general make-up and past performances of those who are appointed to fulfil the duties of enforcement, prosecution, &c., in this city anyway? Can a leopard change its spots by raving and lip service?

The whole proposition is a mess of hypocrisy, with cold cash as the goal and Prohibition as the means.

R. E. MORSE.

The Dry Names.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

I agree with Mr. M. Mack, whose letter appears in your paper June 1.

By all means, if possible, get the list of the names of business interests that have contributed to the Anti-Saloon League. Let us know who they are and how much they gave, thinking that by depriving us of a glass of beer they would benefit thereby.

You can do it, and nine-tenths of your readers would like to know, so [illegible]

UNCOMMON SENSE

By John Blake

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THE RIGHT KIND OF SPECIAL INTEREST.

Ask the man of affairs what he is interested in and he will probably tell you;

"Everything."

He IS interested in everything, and he ought to be.

But he also is especially interested in some one thing, which is why he is a man of affairs.

A very important editor is so absorbed in the study of the world and what is going on in it that in work time or play time he is engaged in its study.

But he is especially interested in men and women. And, specializing in this specialty, he is interested in what they like to read.

He is so deeply interested in this that he never meets a man or woman that he does not find out, in some fashion or other, what it is that attracts their attention in newspapers and magazines.

The results of the several hundred thousand questions he has asked are carefully put away in his brain, and when he gets out a number of the publication he directs, it is always bought and read by a very large number of people.

To have a live personal interest in all created things is necessary to every well educated and active man.

But one must, of these many interests, have one in particular, and ont of that interest he must make his livelihood.

If you sat at a dinner next to John L. Rockefeller you could get few rises out of him by discussing the theory of relativity. But, if you began to talk of how to give away money intelligently, which is his special interest just now, you would probably hear something of much value.

Golf, music, the size of Betelguese, and many other things are fine interests to have, but the one interest you need most of all concerns your business or your profession.

If that is paramount and you give it enough intelligent thought you will prosper. If you "scatter" too much you will not.

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT WORD?

34—GEOGRAPHY.

The ancient Greeks personified the earth, "ge," as the goddess Geia. This divinity plays an important part in mythology. But although they wrote a good deal about Geia, they knew little about the earth. When the Roman conquerors began to study the earth, they gave the name of "geographia"—from the Greek "ge" and "graphia," writing—to the science.

Geography used to be a positive science, in the sense that it was based upon known or determinable facts. But frontiers have shifted so much and so frequently since the great war began that geography has become largely a speculative study.

The same shifting of frontiers will be going on in various parts of the world long after the war. The day when frontiers cease to move about under the influence of marching armies will be a happy day for the world—provided the frontiers are anchored in their present places.

The Pioneers of Progress

By Svetozar Tonjoroff

XIV.—THE MAN WHO SANG T FIRST SONG.

The song of hate is the oldest human song. The first man who ever raised his voice in song gave utterance to that song probably after he had vanquished his enemy, perhaps a wild animal whose skin he wanted and which, in its turn, wanted the man for its dinner.

Singing among animals—birds, for instance—is generally an event of the mating season. The wood-thrush sings his best for his mate—or for the female which he hopes to make his mate. When the mating season is over, the forest is comparatively hushed. Most of the birds cease to sing, or if they do sing occasionally their song is subdued. It lacks heart, fire and frequency.

We wish we could believe that human song had its origin in love-making. But it probably did not. For of all creatures, man in his primitive state was the least inclined to do his love-making by the gentle process of singing. Man, of all creatures, regarded woman as property, to be taken by force if she was wanted and left without compunction when no longer wanted.

The art of wooing among human beings is a reform of yesterday, when the antiquity of the human race is considered. When primitive man wanted a wife he took her by main force. That, in all probability, was all there was to the primitive ceremony of marriage.

That being the case, our earliest ancestors wasted no time in attracting an unwilling female by the cajolery suggested by the bird singing to attract his mate.

In the African jungles the prevailing sounds made by living beings are sounds of anger, challenge, warning, menace or triumph after victory.

The elephant which is the father of the herd "trumpets" as he makes his charge upon an enemy.

The lion—now strangely growing gregarious—roars as he leaps upon his prey.

The ape, after his fierce struggle to overcome a foe, sets the jungle trembling with his loud announcement of the fact, so that all may hear—and beware.

There is reason to believe that the first human singer sang as the elephant, the lion and the ape in the African jungle sing.

His song was no gentle cooing, no tender lullaby. It was the roar of an animal mad with the lust of battle—when it was not the inarticulate shriek of the defeated and those about to die.

From that song of hate or challenge have descended by devious ways the hymns or national anthems of most peoples—anthems that carry the shriek of the madman, the roar of the challenger or the peremptory call of the conqueror.

Dr. Sigmund Spaeth and other musicians have pointed out that in the musical structure of most of the national anthems of the civilized world the trumpet note is plainly apparent. That note is the survival of the song of hate which the first human singer roared out in the jungle of his primitive world.

But, having learned to express hatred, challenge or warning, our first forefathers eventually applied the voice to other sentiments. Perhaps they learned something from the birds in the forest. The mother who crooned to her restless infant in the cave is entitled to the honor of being regarded as the author of the first lullaby.

It is possible, too, that the fighting man, on the morning after the battle in which he had sung his first song, stood before his cave, sniffed the fresh morning air, felt the thrill of joy and youth in his veins, filled his lungs—and just roared out of sheer satisfaction, as Mr. Wells puts it. But even that vocal ebullition of spirits was not free from the note of challenge.

Forgotten "Whys"

APRIL FOOL'S DAY.

In almost every country where the white man lives there exists the custom of trying to make a fool of one's friends on the first of April. The origin of this is doubtful, but the following suggestion seems plausible:

The habit in France of giving fish on the first of April is believed to be due to the corruption of the word "passion" or "poisson," which is the French for fish, and that length of time has altered the original intention, which was as follows:

That as the Jews sent Christ at this time of the year backward and forward to mock Him, from Annas to Caiaphas, then to Pilate, on to Herod and back to Pilate again, so the custom of sending people on ridiculous errands started among the Jews, spreading from them to the Romans, and so to the civilized world.

"That's a Fact"

By Albert P. Southwick

The "Charter Oak," at Hartford, Conn., is noted as having preserved the document of the liberties of the people of that State during the rule of the tyrannical Gov. Andros.

* * *

The "Elm Tree," at Philadelphia, Pa., is noted as the one under which William Penn made his famous treaty with nineteen tribes of Indians.

* * *

The "Old Liberty Elm" of Boston, Mass., was planted by a schoolmaster and dedicated to Liberty, long before the Revolution. The people gathered under that tree and listened to advocates of freedom, and during the war (1775-1783) offered up thanks and supplications for the success of their armies.

* * *

Under the shade of the "Washington Elm," in Cambridge, Mass., Washington first took command of the Continental Army, on July 3, 1775.

* * *

Cuvier, the greatest of zoologists and the founder of comparative anatomy, was born in 1769, the year that gave birth to forty other noted men, among them Napoleon, the Duke of Wellington and Mehemet Ali, and died in 1832, the year in which twenty men of note, including Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, John Howard Payne and others died.

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The so-called "Chinese white" is zinc. Scarlet color paint is iodide of mercury, and native vermilion or cinnabar is [illegible]